Nature*Kenya*, *The EANHS — Action for Biodiversity Conservation*

Nature Net

Celebrating 90 Years

SEPTEMBER, 1999

MAIN LIBRARY

Membership ~~88~~

1034 Members (At time of print)

WOW! OVER 1000 MEMBERS AND RISING. The abave photograph shows 1000th member Ms. Kavuli Maillu receiving a congratulatary bottle of wine from the Executive Officer Ms. Shriti Rajani & Office Manager Ms. Catherine Ngarachu

VIDEOS & TALKS

THE WILDLIFE AND BIRDS OF SEYCELLES

By Tim & Lisa Campbell

A Slide Talk - Tuesday 14 September at 4:30 p.m. Louis Leakey M. Hall.

EXCURSIONS

PLAN FOR TRIP TO THE COAST

POSTPONED

COMMITTEES

IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

Solomon Ngari

Sites Conservation Officer

KAKAMEGA

The Kakamega Guides Association **(KABICOTOA)** is now implementing an Environmental Education programme sponsored by the African Bird Club (a UK based organisation). The programme is working with eight schools around the forest.

The group is also establishing an education centre and request any materials that may be useful.

Do you have old magazines i.e. EANHS Bulletins, Komba, Swara, books, calenders, binoculars?

KIKUYU ESCARPMENT FOREST

The Kijabe Environment Volunteers **(KENVO)** operating at Gatamaiyu forest have started bimonthly birdwalks as part of their training in bird identification.

Are you an ornithologist, botanist or ethnobotanist, willing to contribute to the development of this group?

KINANGOPS GRASSLAND

The Friends of Kinangop Plateau **(FOKP)** have recently started a community focus programme through seminars to raise awareness about Sharpe's Longclaw. The seminars will be held in the main centres in both the north and south of the Kinangop highland grassland.

Programmes for environmental education and survey and montoring of Sharp's Longclaw are ongoing.

Do you want to participate in these surveys?

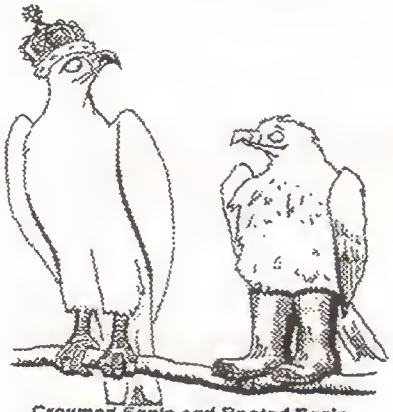
For mare infarmation, an any of the above, cantact Salamon Ngari at Nature Kenya - 746090 or 749957.

SUCCULENTA

Visit the National Museum
Saturday 18 September, from 10:00 a.m.

The intention is to spend several hours at the Museum where some members have already helped to plant up the Succulent section of the Botanic Garden. This will be almost a year since the first planting.

Please contact Carin Parfitt on 882827 if you plan to participate.



Crowned Eagle and Booted Eagle

36

From Birds of East Africa, An Unreliable Field Guide by David Bygotts

REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 am. Return about 12:30 p.m.

Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Kshs 100 per birdwalk. Payable on arrival at the car park.

POT LUCK OUTINGS

Bird-watching outings held on every third Sunday of the month, *i.e.* 19 September. Bring a picnic lunch, binoculars, field guides, *etc.* and meet at 9:00 am at the National Museum car park. Those attending decide on the venue - hence "Pot Luck".

TREE WALK

Arboretum guided Tree Walks on the last Monday of every month i.e. 27 September from 9:30 a.m. Meet at the new FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ.

ARABUKO SOKOKE (COAST)

FOREST WALKS-Wednesday 29 September. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Gede Forest Station.

BIRD WALKS-Saturday 4 September. Starting at 6:30 a.m. from the Gede Forest Station. Organised by Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association.

BUSH CRAFT: *The Wilderness Guardian*

Timber - Durability

Seek local advice about resistance to termites, borers, fungus, decay, etc. In general, the closer the annual rings and the darker the wood the more durable it is.

ORNITHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

CALL FOR RECORDS

Jean Githaiga-Mwicigi
Department of Ornithology

Some interesting bird observation records have been sent to the "Bird Hotline" column of *Nature Net*. Members are urged to forward these and other bird records to the Dept. of Ornithology, National Museums of Kenya. *All* records are useful for supplementing the computerised Bird Atlas database.

Observation lists for each birding session should, preferably, be submitted using the National Birdmap Checklists. *Confirmed* breeding records are useful for ALL species, and those of *probable* breeding (display, carrying nesting material etc.) are only needed for rare species or ones where there are few breeding records. You are strongly urged to fill in a Nest Record Card for each breeding observation. Cards and checklists can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Ornithology or Nature Kenya.

Records of certain species are particularly useful for *Kenya Birds*. These are indicated (e.g. category A, B, or X) in the *Check-list of the Birds of Kenya* (EANHS 1996), available from the Nature Kenya office for Ksh 100/=. **Please note** that for unusual sightings, supporting details (i.e. field notes, photographs etc.) will be needed for review by the Bird Rarities Committee for the record to be accepted or published.

All bird records should be sent to:

The Records Officer
Department of Ornithology,
National Museums of Kenya,
PO Box 40658, Nairobi

OFFICE HOURS:Monday to Friday
9:00am to 3:00pm
ADDRESS: Box 44486, NAIROBI
E -MAIL: eanhs@africaonline.co.ke
TEL:(02) 74 99 57/ 74 60 90
FAX:(02) 74 10 49

WORLD BIRDWATCH '99

2 - 3 OCTOBER

It is with much gratitude that we acknowledge the following donors:

- The British High Commissioner for his offer to host the launch.
- Barclays Bank for the donation of 50,000/-.
- Kenya Broadcasting Corporation and East FM 91.9 for airtime.
- National Museums of Kenya for website space.
- Swarovsky for small gifts.
- R. Willisher, R. Mangat & H. Elkins for cash donations.
- Tinga Tinga for designing & printing of T- shirts available @ 600/-.
- AutoNews for space in their magazine.

Are more donations needed? YES - Sponsor a field guide for an Important Bird Area site group @ 1800/-.

WORLD BIRD COUNT

Besides the records of the weekend of October 2-3, other records from the month of October may be sent in to the office to be submitted for the World Bird Count.

SEPTEMBER DIARY

Wed 1, 8 & 15 Birdwalk
Sat 4 AS Forest Walk
Sat 18 Visit to NMK
Sun 19 Pot Luck Outing
Wed 22 Birdwalk
Mon 27 Tree Walk
Wed 29 AS Forest & Nairobi Birdwalk

MUSEUMS AND MUSEUM SITES

Kariandusi

Hosea Wanderi and Wycliffe Oloo
Dept of Sites & Monuments

The site of Kariandusi lies on the eastern side of the Rift Valley, about 120-km north-north-west of Nairobi, and about 2 km to the east of Lake Elementaita. The site rests on the Nakuru-Elementaita basin which occupies the width of the Rift Valley, flanked by Menengai crater to the north and the volcanic pile of Mount Eburru to the south.

Kariandusi Museum is located two kilometres to the east of Lake Elementeita along the main Nairobi-Nakuru highway. Like Olorgesailie, the site is characterised by the presence of heavy hand axes and cleavers. A walk through the site takes visitors through several excavation pits, undertaken by Louis Leakey in 1928, each displaying a scattered assortment of stone tools, many made from obsidian: the black volcanic rock found in lava flows.

Kenya is well known internationally for her palaeontological and archaeological sites; materials from sites such as Kariandusi are a major source of information about the history of humankind, particularly biological and cultural evolution.

Kariandusi is unique in that it is one of the first discovered Lower Palaeolithic sites in East Africa. There is enough geological evidence to show that, in the past, large lakes occupied the basin, sometimes reaching levels hundreds of meters higher than the present lakes Nakuru ond Elementaita. Through potassium argon dating, we know that this Acheulean site has a time range of about 0.7 to 1.0 million years, thus falling in the lower Pleistocene age.

Kariandusi is also important because of the commercial mining activities at the diatomite deposits nearby. The opening of the mines, apart from unveiling more archaeological materials, has made it possible for dating of the site by use of pumice and other datable materials in the sediments. Apart from the open excavation sites, there is a small site museum with displays of excavated fossils and stone tools.

The site was presented to the Trustees of the Royal National Parks of Kenya by Lady Eleanor Cole. The museum, as all the other regional museums and sites, now falls under the protection of the National Museums of Kenya.

Selected reading:

Gowlett, J. & R. Crompton (1994); "Kariandusi: Acheulean morphology and the question of allometry." In *African Archaeological Review*, 12. pp 3-42, Cambridge University Press.

Trustees of the Royal National Parks of Kenya: "Kariandusi pre-historic site"

BIRD HOTLINE 749957
eanhs@africaonline.co.ke

BIRDS OF THE MONTH - FOUR-COLOURED BUSH-SHRIKE, BLACK-HEADED BATIS, UMANI SPRINGS CAMP, Janet Okero/ JUN

African Crowned Eagle, NAIROBI ARBORETUM seen by Wednesday Morning Birdwalk /AUG

African Black Duck, Black-backed Night Heron, Ethiopian Swallow, Three Banded Plover, White Eared Barbet, SANGARE RANCH, Sukhy Soin & family/ AUG

African Cuckoo Hawk & juvenile, Silvery-cheeked Hornbill, BAHATI FOREST (NAKURU), Bernard Chege/ JUL

Pennant Winged Nightjar, KANYARKWAT, east of Mt. Elgon, Josephat Mwok / JUL

Black-breasted Barbet, near RIVER YALA, BUSIA, Janet Okero /JUL

SOCIETY NOTICES

Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania @ 1800/- from the Nature Kenya office.

THE BIRDS OF AFRICA: 4 copies of volume 5 are available @ 7,000/- from Mrs. Moira F. Lincoln-Gordon, P. O. Box 30, Naivasha, or tel/fax 0311-21346

OLYTO BINOCULARS
Magnification 8 * 21 DCF
Sharp, clear image formation
4 pairs available from the office
@ 1100/-

HELP SOLVE THIS MYSTERY: David Stone of the University of Arizona has been sent photographs of Lake Teleki on Mt. Kenya. They seem to show growth of some kind, maybe algae, at the bottom of the lake and spreading out in great curving lines. Would you have information about this? Contact dstone@U.Arizona.EDU

CAPITAL FOR BUSINESS PURPOSES: Templeton Meyers, a capital placement firm, are seeking additional clients. Interested parties can contact them at 2942 Finch Ave. E, Unit 87134 Toronto, Canada M1W 2T0 Fax: (416) 364-8170